EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

Daniel Devine <dsdevine@cbscable.com>

To:

ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")

Date:

Tue, Jul 27, 1999 2:38 PM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Daniel Devine (dsdevine@cbscable.com) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 13:38:42

comments: People's radio is very important

address: 1732 N Prospect Ave.

address2: #710

city: Milwaukee

state: WI

zip: 53202

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman

Commissioner Gloria Tristani Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

PEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

No. of Copies recid List ABCDE

diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio

Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- 1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial

associations, and non-profit organizations.

- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored

Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology

Ellen Braune--Publicist

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Juliet Schor--Harvard University Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Stuart Ewen -- Author Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES Magazine

Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
Movement for Self Determination

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

Laura Pelner McCarthy, PhD <silkpurs@nic.com>

To:

ROUTE A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")

Date:

Tue, Jul 27, 1999 2:57 PM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Laura Pelner McCarthy, PhD (silkpurs@nic.com) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 13:57:14

comments: As a former community radio broadcaster and as a professor of communications with a PhD in the history of radio,

I *strongly* urge you to return the airwaves to the public and restore the marvel of radio communication to the communities and the people

radio to it function of communication rather than money-making commodity that sells the ears of the people to the highest bidder with no

concern for the "public interest, convenience, and necessity."

address: P. O. Box 691

city: Tuxedo Park

state: NY

zip: 10987

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman

Commissioner Gloria Tristani Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that

A.P

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year

alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- 1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro

and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director , Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Juliet Schor--Harvard University Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Stuart Ewen -- Author Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,

publishers of YES Magazine
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
Movement for Self Determination
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

From: <dwd@pobox.com>

To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...

Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 3:02 PM

Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani, Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

RECEIVED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

JUL 28 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

No. of Copies rec'd_ List ABCDE Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media.
 LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property

should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate. 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Juliet Schor--Harvard University Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Stuart Ewen -- Author Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education David C. Korten--Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES Magazine Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored Ellen Braune--Publicist Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology Efia Nwangaza--Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Movement for Self Determination

Additional Comments=
name=David W. Daniell
street=665 Kirkwood Ave. SE
city=Atlanta
state=GA
zip=30316
=Send to FCC

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

David R. Glaser < DRGlaser@aol.com>

To:

ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")

Date:

Tue, Jul 27, 1999 3:14 PM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by David R. Glaser (DRGlaser@aol.com) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 14:14:11

comments; I support this important initiative. I worry about the concentration of power in too few hands. We need more diversity in radio and media in general.

Thanks

address: 5188 Even Star Place

city: Columbia,

state: MD

zip: 21044

Submit: Send to FCC

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To:

The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman

Commissioner Gloria Tristani Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

No. of Copies rec'd List ABCDE

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio

Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
- Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Ellen Braune--Publicist

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Juliet Schor--Harvard University Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Stuart Ewen -- Author Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Baddikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES Magazine Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

D'nardo Colucci <colucci@virtual-reality.com>

To:

ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")

Date:

Tue, Jul 27, 1999 3:52 PM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by D'nardo Colucci (colucci@virtual-reality.com) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 14:52:42

comments: I agree with everything stated above and would like to add some more personal sentiments. Disney currently controls no less than 5 radio stations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Their brand of "payola alternative" music is consistant with - if not identical to - the music they push on young people across the country. Independent radio is the ONLY source of music that represents the community while educating it at the same time. I specifically point out Disney, because to me they represent everything that is bad about American culture. I would rather see kids smoking Camels and drinking beer than believing the Disney lie. And, I am not alone.

M

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

PEDETAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

D'nardo Colucci

address: 27 Maple Pl.

city: Minneapolis

state: MN

zip: 55401

Submit: Send to FCC

To:

The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman

Commissioner Gloria Tristani Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local

government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- 1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a

protection under the FCC's mandate.

- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee: Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia Diane Fleming, Philadelphia Peter Franck, San Francisco Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C. Alan Korn, San Francisco Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director ,Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
Stuart Ewen -- Author
Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program

Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)

Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV

Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley

Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education

David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,

publishers of YES Magazine

Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored

Ellen Braune--Publicist

Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology

Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots

Movement for Self Determination

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

Matthew Scott Grosser <matt.grosser@courts.state.mn.us> ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")

To: Date:

Tue, Jul 27, 1999 4:01 PM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Matthew Scott Grosser (matt.grosser@courts.state.mn.us) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 15:01:00

comments: Please do not let the corporate obbsession with making money rob the people of their right to free expression. The history of this nation is wrought with instances of the public's will ignored in favor of the corporate greed. It is a sad and filthy history. Please don't repeat it.

address: 2524 Harriet Avenue South

state: MN

city: Minneapolis

zip: 55405

Submit: Send to FCC

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman

Commissioner Gloria Tristani Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

PEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

No. of Copies rec'd List ABCDE

diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio

Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- 1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial

associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee: Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia Diane Fleming, Philadelphia Peter Franck, San Francisco Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C. Alan Korn, San Francisco Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Juliet Schor--Harvard University Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Stuart Ewen -- Author Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES Magazine Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored Ellen Braune--Publicist

Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology

Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
Movement for Self Determination

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

Robert Yunk <ryunk@fau.edu>

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...

Date:

Tue, Jul 27, 1999 10:02 AM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman.

Commissioner Gloria Tristani. Commissioner Michael Powell **Commissioner Susan Ness**

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth **Federal Communications Commission**

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554 cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore.

Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr. cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard.

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwayes. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

No. of Copies rec'd List ABCDE

RECEIVED PEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

- Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast

pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored Ellen Braune--Publicist Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press Juliet Schor--Harvard University Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Barbara Ehrenreich--Author Gloria Steinem--Ms. Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=I have been involved with public radio for 7 years in South Florida. It is my opinion that issuing FM microradio licenses will diversify this broadcasting medium and will end in more positive community interaction.

name=Robert Yunk
street=1845 NW 15th Vista
city=Boca Raton
state=FL
zip=33432
=Send to FCC